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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,787	07/31/2001	Charles W. Kellum	13736 (CIP-10)	3196
293	7590	02/14/2005	EXAMINER	
Ralph A. Dowell of DOWELL & DOWELL P.C. 2111 Eisenhower Ave. Suite 406 Alexandria, VA 22314			DAVIS, ZACHARY A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2137	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/917,787	KELLUM, CHARLES W.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zachary A Davis	2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The use of the trademark WebTV® has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 2-6, 8-15, and 17-44 are objected to because of the following informalities: The above claims each end with a semicolon. All claims must end with a period. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1, 7, 27, and 42, the phrase “for example” or “e.g.” renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 16, and 29, the phrase “such as” renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Further in reference to Claims 1 and 7, the limitation “or (other compromise)” is generally unclear. There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the system being protected” in line 4 of each claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the invention” in line 5 of each claim. The use of the parenthetical limitations “referred to as the protected-system”; “a secure communications & processing front-end signal control system”; “at the signal level”; “from the protected-system”; “where the protected-system is a manned system”; “and store in any desired format”; “of any type”; “for process-control and telemetry type applications”; “where the protected-system is an unmanned/autonomous system”; “based on the external command and request

processing results”; “or unauthorized command sequences”; “and remaining in”; “and updates”; and “at best, marginally effective” renders the scope of the claims indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. The use of the phrases “and like signals” and “etc.” renders the claims indefinite because the claims include elements not actually disclosed, thereby rendering the scope of the claims unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). Further, regarding the limitation “whereby a simple embodiment of this step is to make the monitor (e.g. VGA/SVGA output) signal of the invention viewable on a subset of the raster display (monitor) of the protected-system”, it is unclear whether this limitation is part of the claimed invention, as it appears to describe an example embodiment rather than a defining embodiment. The above limitations render claims 1 and 7 indefinite.

In reference to Claim 2, the use of the parenthetical limitation “the secure communications & processing front-end signal control system” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention.

In reference to Claim 3, the use of the parenthetical limitations “or user generated” and “information preserving data transform” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, the language “any commercially available (or user generated) process including” renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear exactly what processes are encompassed. See MPEP § 2173.05(h). Further, the use of the phrase “or like processes” renders the claim indefinite because the claims include

elements not actually disclosed, thereby rendering the scope of the claims unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

In reference to Claim 4, the use of the parenthetical limitation “the secure communications & processing front-end signal control system” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis in the claims for the recited limitation “the repository”.

Claim 5 recites the limitation “the expansion-bus”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

In reference to Claim 8, the use of the phrase “and like devices” renders the claim indefinite because the claims include elements not actually disclosed, thereby rendering the scope of the claims unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). Further, the language “selected from a group of computer hardware devices, including” renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear exactly what hardware devices are encompassed by the group. See MPEP § 2173.05(h).

In reference to Claim 9, the use of the parenthetical limitation “the secure communications & processing front-end signal control system” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis in the claims for the recited limitation “the intermediate domain device”.

Claim 10 recites the limitation “said intermediate domain device”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Further, the language

“selected from a group of computer hardware devices, including” renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear exactly what hardware devices are encompassed by the group. See MPEP § 2173.05(h).

Claim 11 recites the limitation “the expansion-bus”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

In reference to Claim 12, the use of the parenthetical limitations “a secure communications & processing front-end signal control system” and “up/down” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the expansion-bus” in the claims.

In reference to Claim 13, the use of the parenthetical limitation “a secure communications & processing front-end signal control system” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, the limitation “a plurality of the invention” is generally unclear.

In reference to Claim 14, the use of the parenthetical limitations “a secure communications & processing front-end signal control system” and “of each invention” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, the limitations “a network of systems, each protected by an embodiment of the invention ..., form an automatic self-cleansing network”; “via the embodiment of the means (of each invention) to automatically return to a predefined secure state”; and “the plurality of the invention

forms a secure network overlay” are generally unclear. Still further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the network of protected-systems”.

Claim 15 recites “The plurality of claim 14”; however, Claim 14 is directed to a system. Further, the use of the parenthetical limitations “of the invention”, “at the signal-level”, and “i.e. non DIN-authentication-capable” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention.

In reference to Claim 16, the use of the parenthetical limitation “a secure communications & processing front-end signal control system” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, the limitation “user action/approval” is unclear, as the further limitation “such approval” makes it unclear as to whether the user action must be an approval.

Claim 17 recites the limitations “the initial data set”, “the intermediate domain device”, and “the second data set”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

In reference to Claim 19, the use of the parenthetical limitations “from the protected system” and “secure communications & processing front-end signal control systems” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention.

Claim 20 recites the limitations “said intermediate domain device” and “the bus”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims. Further, the

language “selected from a group of computer hardware devices, including” renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear exactly what hardware devices are encompassed by the group. See MPEP § 2173.05(h). Additionally, the use of the trademark WebTV® renders the claim indefinite because the trademark cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. See MPEP § 2173.05(u), and MPEP § 608.01(v) regarding proper use of trademarks. Still further, it is unclear what is encompassed by the limitation “a plurality of such devices”.

Claim 21 recites the limitation “the intermediate domain device”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim 22 recites the limitations “said means for connecting” and “extracting and means for passing, means for purging, means for resetting”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

In reference to Claim 26, the use of the parenthetical limitations “representing DIN’s or labeled data sets” and “application specific” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations “the means to generate, transceive, and process” in the claims. Additionally, the limitation “encypherment is an example of such means”, renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation is part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim 27 recites the limitation “limitations of binary computation”. It is unclear what is meant by this limitation. Further, the language “any telecommunication medium

including” renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear exactly what telecommunication media are encompassed. See MPEP § 2173.05(h).

In reference to Claim 28, the use of the parenthetical limitation “due to the means for purging, and means for resetting” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations “the means for purging, and means for resetting” and “the means to intrinsically and automatically eliminate” in the claims. Additionally, it is unclear what is encompassed by the limitation “a plurality of such systems”. Still further, it is unclear whether the limitation “the system” in line 4 of the claim is intended to refer to the protected-system or the system as a whole.

Claim 29 recites the limitation “the means for connecting”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Further, it is unclear whether the limitation “the system” in line 2 of the claim is intended to refer to the protected-system or the system as a whole.

In reference to Claim 30, the use of the parenthetical limitations “based on parameters including type, rate, labels” and “including data sets” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations “the means for connecting”, “the DIN of the system”, and “the label of the signal traffic” in the claims. Additionally, it is unclear whether the limitation “the system” in line 3 of the claim is intended to refer to the protected-system or the system as a whole.

In reference to Claim 31, it is unclear whether the limitation “the system” in line 3 of the claim is intended to refer to the protected-system or the system as a whole.

In reference to Claim 32, the use of the parenthetical limitation “in a network of like systems” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the means to generate” in the claims. Additionally, the limitation “a like systems” is generally unclear, and it is unclear what the subject of the limitation “transmit such information” is.

In reference to Claim 33, the use of the parenthetical limitations “in a network of like systems” and “based on results of such processing” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the means to receive device status” in the claims. Additionally, the limitation “relative to the network of like systems” is generally unclear.

Claim 34 recites the limitations “the means for connecting”, “the intermediate domain device”, “the expansion-bus”, and “the host-protected system”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims. Further, the use of the parenthetical limitation “as an add-in card” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention.

In reference to Claim 36, the use of the parenthetical limitation “of such processing and execution” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further,

there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations “the means for securely passing” and “the results” in the claims. Further, it is unclear what is intended by the use of quotation marks around the phrase “executable code”.

In reference to Claim 37, the use of the parenthetical limitation “for transmission” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, it is unclear whether the limitation “the system” in line 3 of the claim is intended to refer to the protected-system or the system as a whole. Additionally, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the transmitting system” in the claims.

In reference to Claim 38, the use of the parenthetical limitation “that are to be transmitted to external destinations” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations “the means for connecting” and “the destination” in the claims.

In reference to Claim 39, the use of the parenthetical limitation “to the protected domain” renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations “the means for securely transferring” and “the protected domain” in the claims.

Claim 40 recites the limitation “the protected domain”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Further, it is unclear whether the

limitation "the system" in line 2 of the claim is intended to refer to the protected-system or the system as a whole.

In reference to Claim 41, the use of the parenthetical limitation "as determined by specific application parameters" renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the means for securely passing" in the claims. Additionally, the use of the phrase "or like network device" renders the claim indefinite because the claims include elements not actually disclosed, thereby rendering the scope of the claims unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

In reference to Claim 42, the use of the parenthetical limitation "as defined by specific applications" renders the scope of the claim indefinite, as it is unclear whether the limitations in parentheses are included in the claimed invention. Further, the limitation "adjacent like-devices" is generally unclear.

Claim 43 recites the limitation "the means for connecting". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim 44 recites the limitation "the means to control the transmission". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Further, it is unclear whether the limitation "the system" in line 3 of the claim is intended to refer to the protected-system or the system as a whole.

Claim 45 recites the limitation "the means to buffer and decontaminate". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. Further, it is unclear whether the limitation "the system" in lines 6 and 8 of the claim is intended to refer to the

protected-system or the system as a whole. Additionally, it is unclear what is intended by the use of quotation marks around the phrases "protected system", "server", and "client".

Any claim not specifically referred to above is rejected due to its dependence on a rejected base claim.

For purposes of interpreting the prior art, all exemplary claim language, parenthetical limitations, and "whereby" clauses have been given no patentable weight.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-14, 16-24, 28, 29, 34-36, and 38-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnurer et al, US Patent 5842002, in view of Li et al, US Patent 6119165.

In reference to Claim 1, Schnurer discloses a method that includes inserting a front-end signal control system between a system being protected and external signal sources (Figure 1, Emulation Box 48), allowing the protected system to capture the output signals from the control system (see column 7, lines 28-35), providing a signal path between the protected system and the control system (column 6, lines 38-40),

processing commands and requests while confining external signals in the control system (column 7, lines 25-37; also lines 15-18), and returning the control system to a predefined state (column 8, lines 54-58). However, Schnurer does not explicitly disclose viewing the processing of external signals taking place inside the control system.

Li discloses a system that includes a proxy server and allows an end user to view the status of virus scanning and other security measures taking place on the proxy server (column 4, lines 47-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Schnurer by allowing the user to view the status of processing on the intermediary server, in order to allow a client to better monitor the connection between the client and a remote site (see Li, column 2, lines 18-31).

In reference to Claim 2, Schnurer further discloses connection of the control system to the protected system (column 6, lines 38-40).

In reference to Claim 3, Schnurer further discloses the protected system capturing the output signals of the control system (see column 7, lines 28-35).

In reference to Claim 4, Schnurer further discloses processing external commands and requests (column 7, lines 25-27).

In reference to Claim 5, Schnurer further discloses connecting the control system to a bus (column 6, lines 9-13, where the device can be implemented as a board level CPU).

In reference to Claim 6, Schnurer further discloses that the control system can be returned to a predefined state automatically or manually (column 8, lines 27-35 and 54-58).

In reference to Claim 17, Schnurer further discloses selecting a data set, transferring the data set to an intermediate device (column 6, lines 27-28, where an incoming data stream is read), and processing the data set (see, for example, column 7, lines 44-52).

In reference to Claim 18, Schnurer further discloses filtering the data set (column 7, lines 27-28, where the data is split between two paths).

Claim 7 is directed to a system that corresponds substantially to the method of Claim 1, and is rejected by a similar rationale.

In reference to Claims 8, 10, and 20, Schnurer further discloses a device embodied as a computer hardware device (column 6, lines 9-13).

In reference to Claims 9 and 21, Li further discloses means for identifying a system (column 3, lines 56-65).

In reference to Claims 11, 12, and 23, Schnurer further discloses means of the control system connected to a bus (column 6, lines 9-13, where the device can be implemented as a board level CPU).

In reference to Claims 13 and 23, Schnurer further discloses a system including a plurality of control systems (Figure 4, where there are multiple Trapping Devices 10).

In reference to Claim 14, Schnurer further discloses a network of systems, each protected by a control system (Figure 4).

In reference to Claims 16 and 19, Schnurer further discloses a filter function (column 7, lines 27-28).

In reference to Claim 24, Schnurer further discloses a plurality of control systems (Figure 4) and Li further discloses means for identifying authorized devices (column 3, lines 56-65).

In reference to Claim 28, Schnurer further discloses a plurality of systems (Figures 3 and 4).

In reference to Claim 29, Schnurer further discloses an initialization process (see column 7, lines 19-24).

In reference to Claim 34, Schnurer further discloses the control system embodied as a single board device connected to a bus (column 6, lines 9-13, where the device can be implemented as a board level CPU).

In reference to Claim 35, Schnurer further discloses the protected system within the larger system (see Figure 1).

In reference to Claims 36 and 39, Schnurer further discloses means for secure processing of executable code received from an external data source (column 7, lines 3-18).

In reference to Claims 38 and 40, Schnurer further discloses processing data sets and deleting files that are not authenticated as safe (column 8, lines 26-33).

In reference to Claim 41, Schnurer discloses that the protected system is a network device (column 6, lines 41-62) and that data units are analyzed (column 7, lines 12-15) and improper data units are identified and deleted (column 8, lines 26-33).

In reference to Claim 42, Li further discloses generating and transmitting status information (column 5, lines 8-11 and 16-23).

In reference to Claim 43, Li further discloses monitoring incoming data units (column 4, lines 24-39).

In reference to Claim 44, Schnurer further discloses controlling transmission of data units to external systems (see column 6, lines 41-62).

In reference to Claim 45, Schnurer further discloses decontaminating incoming data streams (column 7, lines 25-32).

8. Claims 15, 25-27, 30-33, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnurer in view of Li, and further in view of Aziz et al, US Patent 6119234.

In reference to Claim 15, Schnurer in view of Li discloses everything as applied above to Claim 14. However, Schnurer as modified above does not explicitly disclose the use of Device Identification Number authentication capability. Aziz discloses a proxy system using client-configured addresses and keys for intermediate device access (column 4, lines 1-8; see also column 7, lines 28-38 and column 10, lines 35-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Schnurer and Li by including the use of

DIN authentication, in order to allow for dynamic configuration for secure communications (see Aziz, column 4, lines 16-26).

In reference to Claims 25 and 26, Schnurer in view of Li discloses everything as applied above to Claim 24. However, Schnurer as modified above does not explicitly disclose the use of DIN authentication and data set labeling capabilities. Aziz discloses a proxy system using client-configured addresses and keys for intermediate device access (column 4, lines 1-8; see also column 7, lines 28-38 and column 10, lines 35-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Schnurer and Li by including the use of DIN authentication, in order to allow for dynamic configuration for secure communications (see Aziz, column 4, lines 16-26).

In reference to Claim 27 Schnurer further discloses a telecommunication medium (column 6, lines 50-54).

In reference to Claim 30 and 37, Schnurer in view of Li discloses everything as applied above to Claim 7. Schnurer further discloses controlling the flow of signal traffic (for example, see column 7, lines 25-33). However, neither Schnurer nor Li explicitly discloses the use of the DIN in controlling signal flow. Aziz discloses a proxy system using client-configured addresses and keys for intermediate device access (column 4, lines 1-8; see also column 7, lines 28-38 and column 10, lines 35-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to modify the system of Schnurer and Li by including the use of DINs in controlling signal flow, in order to allow for dynamic configuration for secure communications (see Aziz, column 4, lines 16-26).

In reference to Claim 31, Schnurer further discloses deriving the origin of signal traffic (see column 6, lines 24-35).

In reference to Claims 32 and 33, Li further discloses generating, transmitting, and receiving status information (column 5, lines 8-11 and 16-23).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


- a. Ji et al, US Patent 5623600, discloses a proxy device interposed between a client and a server, which eliminates viruses from data before the data is transferred to the client system.
- b. Ji et al, US Patent 5889943, discloses a node that performs virus detection and data analysis.
- c. Bull et al, US Patent 6065118, discloses a device that isolates questionable program modules before they are passed to an end user computer system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary A Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-3870. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 8:30-6:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


zad


ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER